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Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A mechanical fastening system for an article, comprising:

a first fastening component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material disposed on an article, the oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web and produced by application of a force causing constituent fibers of the nonwoven web to become oriented in a direction of the applied force without substantial necking or gathering of the nonwoven web in a direction perpendicular to the applied force; and

a second fastening component comprising a hook material disposed on the article and adapted to engage the first fastening component.

2. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an elastomeric material to provide elastic properties to the resulting composite.

3. (original) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the machine direction.

4. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the cross machine direction.

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5. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by thermally treating the material.

6. (original) A mechanical fastening system for an article, comprising:

a first fastening component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material disposed on an article, the oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web and produced by application of a force causing constituent fibers of the nonwoven web to become oriented in a direction of the applied force, the first fastening component having been stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an inelastic material; and

a second fastening component comprising a hook material disposed on the article and adapted to engage the first fastening component.

7. (original) The mechanical fastening system of claim 6 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become oriented in the direction of the force without substantial necking or gathering of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular to the applied force.

8. (withdrawn) A mechanical fastening system of claim 6 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become oriented in the direction of the force with concomitant necking or narrowing of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular to the applied force.

9. (original) The mechanical fastening system of claim 6 wherein nonwoven web is formed of substantially continuous fibers.

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10. (original) The mechanical fastening system of claim 6 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the machine direction.

11. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 6 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the cross machine direction.

12. (original) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, comprising:

a body having first and second end regions and comprising a liquid permeable inner layer for contact with the wearer's skin, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer; and

a mechanical fastening system comprising first and second fastening components disposed in the respective first and second end regions and adapted to refastenably secure the body in a pant configuration, the first fastening component formed of an oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web, the oriented nonwoven loop material produced by application of a force causing constituent fibers of the nonwoven web to become oriented in a direction of the applied force without substantial necking or gathering of the nonwoven web in a direction perpendicular to the applied force, and the second fastening component comprising a hook material.

13. (original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 12 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an inelastic material.

14. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 12 wherein the first fastening component has been

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stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an elastomeric material to provide elastic properties to the resulting composite.

15. (original) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, comprising:

a body having first and second end regions and comprising a liquid permeable inner layer for contact with the wearer's skin, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer; and

a mechanical fastening system comprising first and second fastening components disposed in the respective first and second end regions and adapted to refastenably secure the body in a pant configuration, the first fastening component formed of an oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web, the oriented nonwoven loop material produced by application of a force causing constituent fibers of the nonwoven web to become oriented in a direction of the applied force, the first fastening component being extensible and bonded in overlaying relationship onto a layer of the body to retain extension and retraction characteristics of oriented nonwoven loop material, and the second fastening component comprising a hook material.

16. (withdrawn). The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an elastomeric material to provide elastic properties to the resulting composite.

17. (withdrawn). The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been produced by orienting the nonwoven web in the machine

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direction and necking the nonwoven web in the cross machine direction.

18. (original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been produced by orienting the nonwoven web in the cross machine direction.

19. (original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become oriented in the direction of the force without substantial necking or gathering of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular to the applied force.

20. (withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become oriented in the direction of the force with concomitant necking or narrowing of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular to the applied force.

21. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by thermally treating the material.

22-27. (canceled)